

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated September 6, 2006, Applicants respectfully request continued examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicants thank the Examiner for the discussion on December 20, 2006 and believe that agreement was reached that the claims are patentable over the cited references.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §102

Claims 7-8, 10-14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,499,187 (Smith). As noted above, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable over Smith.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §103

Claims 1-5, 9 and 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,885,016 (Worley). As indicated above, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable over Smith in view of Worley.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call Applicants' Attorney at the number provided below with an questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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